

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7307

Investigation into Vermont Electric Utilities')
Use of Smart Metering and Time-Based Rates)

Order entered: 5/10/2007

PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM

I convened a prehearing conference in this proceeding on May 3, 2007. The following entities were represented: the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department"); Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Green Mountain Power Corporation; Central Vermont Public Service Corporation; the City of Burlington Electric Department; the 14 Municipal Electric Utilities;¹ Vermont Marble Power Division of OMYA, Inc.; and the Conservation Law Foundation ("CLF").²

Intervention

CLF filed a motion to intervene on May 2, 2007. No party objected to CLF's intervention, except that CVPS requested that intervention be allowed on a permissive basis. I granted CLF's motion under Rule 2.209(B), which authorizes permissive intervention.

1. The 14 Municipal Electric Utilities are: Barton Village, Inc. Electric Department; Village of Enosburg Falls Water & Light Department; Town of Hardwick Electric Department; Village of Hyde Park Electric Department; Village of Jacksonville Electric Company; Village of Johnson Water & Light Department; Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department; Village of Lyndonville Electric Department; Village of Morrisville Water & Light Department; Village of Northfield Electric Department; Village of Orleans Electric Department; Town of Readsboro Electric Light Department; Town of Stowe Electric Department; and Swanton Village, Inc. Electric Department.

2. Many of the participants were represented by persons other than counsel. Parties are reminded that, under Public Service Board ("Board") Rule 2.201, counsel or other authorized representatives are required to file notices of appearances. Those rules also delineate (in Rule 2.201(B) who may appear on behalf of a party as a pro se representative.

Schedule

The Department proposed a series of workshops to examine the issues set out in its petition. The Department stated that it intended to hire a consultant to examine each of those issues. The first workshop would occur in July, prior to the consultant's analysis. Subsequent workshops would be held in October and November to examine the consultant's report and recommendations and to determine future steps in this docket. The Department also invited other parties to comment on the Request for Proposals ("RFP") that it plans to circulate to prospective consultants; the Department expects to distribute the draft RFP by May 9 and seeks comments by May 16.

Other parties generally accepted the Department's recommended approach to this docket, although several of them expressed some concerns about the potential outcome. Several parties also stated that they would like the opportunity to submit initial comments on the issues raised by the Department's proceeding.

I accepted the Department's proposed approach. Accordingly, I adopt the following schedule for the initial stages of this proceeding.

May 24, 2007	Deadline for Intervention
May 24, 2007	Parties may submit Comments on Issues
June 7, 2007	Responses to Motions to Intervene
July 18, 2007	Workshop (at 1:00 p.m.) ³

The parties also discussed the question of how the schedule and process for this proceeding should be altered if the current version of H.520 is enacted. That proposed legislation would require the Board to examine alternative rate designs to encourage energy efficiency. The Department's petition had recommended that, if the legislation passed, the Board expand this investigation to include examination of such alternative rate designs. As it is now unknown whether the legislation will be enacted, this issue will be deferred to the July 18 workshop.

3. Although it was not specifically discussed at the prehearing conference, I expect that the Department will take the lead in developing an agenda for the workshop and will consult with other parties in preparing that agenda.

The parties also agreed to establish an e-mail distribution list. Any person interested in being added to the list should notify the Clerk's office. Parties are reminded that formal filings must still be made in writing, copied to all parties, and filed with the Clerk of the Board.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 10th day of May, 2007.

s/George Young
George Young, Esq.
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: May 10, 2007

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson

Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)